DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Nair, in regard to the village road you first referred to, the Chief Engineer has already taken up the question of making it fit for cart traffic throughout and keeping it in good order. The only difficulty, he says, is about a bridge there, the construction of which will be rather costly. He would therefore have it stand over for the time being. I shall however ask him to have an estimate prepared, and if it is not very expensive we shall try to take up the work next year. With regard to the road to the Veli *kayal*, arrangements are already in progress to do the work next year.

In regard to the water supply for the Trivandrum town, I am glad to be able to tell you that it has been found feasible to adopt a scheme which will supply water to the whole town—both to the higher and the lower levels of the town—and the present intention is to supply at the rate of 25 gallons of good water per head of population per day. I hope to have the preliminary works commenced almost immediately. I am deputing two officers to start the preliminary work.

Then you dealt with the question of town-planning for Trivandrum. The Municipality very readily approved of the proposal to get down a town-planning expert. But when it came to paying the town-planning expert, the Municipality's views suddenly altered. They said, "We would like to have a town-planning expert but we cannot pay for him". However, they very generously offered to contribute 25 per cent. of the cost. But this is purely a work for the Municipality and Government have every reason to expect the Municipality to pay the cost. Government will certainly not stand in their way in getting an expert.

As regards the Magistrate's Court at Kazhakuttam, I have called for a report from the District Magistrate and I am waiting to see what he has to say about it.

93. Needs of the Chirayinkil taluk.

MR. KANAKKU MARTANDA PILLAI PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Chirayinkil taluk, Group I*) said that the need for a road joining the Chirayinkil-Attingal road, 3rd mile, with the Trivandrum-Quilon road, 18th mile, had been represented at previous sessions of the Assembly. It was very necessary for the inhabitants of the Edakod, Kizhvalam, Kuntallur and Chirayinkil *pakuthies*. The existing route from those *pakuthies* to Chirayinkil was very circuitous and people had to go to Chirayinkil every day because, the hospital, the Sub-Registrar's office, the Valiakada market and other institutions were situated there. Further, there was a canal crossing the existing route and the bridge across it was in a very dilapidated and dangerous condition. People were put to much difficulty in crossing this canal and during the rainy season they could not even go to the market on the other side. The difficulty would be obviated if the above road was constructed. It was only 3 miles long and much money would not have to be spent for acquiring land. The road, besides being very useful to the people, would also tend to develop trade in the locality, as it would connect two important markets *viz.*, the Valiakada and the Venjarammudu markets.

The Government had acquired a site for the construction of the local Sub-Registrar's office six years ago but the building had not yet been commenced. The office was housed in a rented building located in a remote and inaccessible corner of the taluk. The building was not at all spacious or safe enough for keeping the valuable records of the office. Better private buildings were available on the same rent provided the lease was for 12 years. Either a new building on the site acquired should be constructed or a better and more suitable building should be rented.

A First Class Magistrate's Court at Attingal was an absolute necessity. The majority of the cases filed in the Trivandrum First Class Magistrate's Court were from the Chirayinkil taluk. Grave offences such as housebreaking, dacoity, and grievous hurt, were committed in several parts of the taluk and the inhabitants of the northern-most *pakuthies* such as Kappil, Edava, Madavur and Pallikkal, found it very difficult to go to Trivandrum to prefer their complaints. There was a large number of rowdies in the taluk and the local police were not vigilant enough to detect the large number of offences committed. The aggrieved parties also found it very difficult to go to a distant place to prefer the complaints.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Two bridges across the Puttanar were in existence some twenty years ago but both of them had been damaged. The need for constructing new bridges in their stead had been pressed at the previous session of the Assembly. For want of bridges, people were experiencing great difficulty. Persons engaged in the coir industry, carried on extensively at Kadakkavur, Pudukurichi, Tazhampalli and other places, had to cross the river several times daily. The ferryman was seldom at his post. The boat was kept very untidy and was slippery. The case was similar in respect of the crossing at the place where the other bridge had stood. The Public Works Department had collected some building materials for the construction of a bridge. The work should be pushed through and the first mentioned bridge should be finished earlier. *Pucca* bridges fit for cart traffic were not required. It would be enough if small bridges 3 feet in width be constructed. A similar bridge across the Mamom river was also necessary.

The chief paddy fields in the Chirayinkil taluk were situated in the Pulikulattu *chira*. But the ryots of this and the surrounding places found it difficult to let in water from the Mamom river. The wooden sluices along the bund of the river put up by the ryots were damaged and breaches occurred in the bund during rainy seasons. In view to prevent such losses, pipes, one foot in diameter, might be laid along the river bund for taking water from the river to the fields. Each of the pipes need only be 25 feet long.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, your representations will be duly considered. You deal with needs of the taluk in the matter of public works involving expenditure of very large sums. The needs of Chirayinkil will be considered with due regard to urgency and requirements in the taluks of the State taken all together.

94. Needs of the Neduvangad taluk.

MR. MUTTUMPERUMAL PILLAI SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Member Neduvangad taluk*) said that, in the *pakuthies* of Mannukkara and Aryanad, wild elephants were making inroads upon cultivated lands and devastating the crops. On the 2nd Kanni 1102 three rogue elephants—two tuskers and one cow—entered a private compound and, in spite of the best efforts of the local people, the beasts could not be scared away. They still continued to work havoc there and other wild elephants were also occasionally visiting the neighbourhood and causing incalculable loss to the crops. Unless the inroads of the wild beasts were prevented, many registered holdings would have to be relinquished thereby causing loss to the people and the Government alike. In former days arrangements had been for preventing such inroads. Many elephant pits had been dug and there were elephant cages at Neduvangad, Ponmana, Kadakkal and Kulattupuzha. Rewards had been offered for destroying wild animals and fire-arms were supplied to private gentlemen by the Government. Lands were registered in the names of Kanikars in return for their services in destroying wild elephants. People were allowed to occupy *tarisu* lands in the taluk and enjoy them free of assessment for five or six years. But such concessions had been withdrawn with the advent of the Forest authorities. The member prayed for the following relief measures :—

(1) The old elephant pits in the two *pakuthies* mentioned above should be improved in order to capture wild elephants.

(2) An elephant cage should be erected at Aryanad and stringent orders should be issued to the Forest authorities to capture at least five wild elephants every year.

(3) Owners of private lands should be allowed to shoot wild elephants without license if they made inroads on private lands.

(4) If that could not be sanctioned, private lands damaged by wild elephants should be acquired by the Government on payment of compensation and the tax thereon written off the accounts.

The member next requested that the trace leading from Vamanapuram to the Palod-Shencotta road should be converted into a cart road.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly